## AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims on the application. All claims are set forth below with one of the following annotations.

- (Original): Claim filed with the application following the specification.
- (Currently amended): Claim being amended in the current amendment paper.
- (Cancelled): Claim cancelled or deleted from the application.
- (Withdrawn): Claim still in the application, but in a non-elected status.
- (New): Claim being added in the current amendment paper.
- (Previously presented): Claim not being currently amended, but which was amended or was new in a previous amendment paper.
- (Not entered): Claim presented in a previous amendment, but not entered or whose entry status unknown. No claim text is shown.

## 1-6 (Cancelled)

- 7. (Original) A processor configured to process contents of packets passing through a connection point on a computer network, the processor comprising:
  - (a) a buffer for receiving at least some of the contents of each packet passing through the connection point;
  - (b) a memory containing one or more instructions of an instruction set for the state processor;
  - (c) an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) coupled to the buffer;
  - (d) a control block coupled to the ALU and to the instruction memory for decoding instructions; and
  - (e) a program counter coupled to the instruction memory and to the ALU for indicating the next state processor instruction in the memory to process,

wherein the ALU includes a searching apparatus comprising one or more comparators for searching for a reference string in the contents of a packet.

- 8. (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the state processor processes contents of all packets passing through the connection point in real time.
- 9. (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the instruction set includes an instruction for invoking the searching apparatus of the ALU to search for a specified reference string in the packet starting at an unknown location within a range of the packet.
- 10. (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the searching apparatus searches for any of a set of reference strings in the contents of a packet, and wherein the instruction set includes an instruction for invoking the searching apparatus to search for any of a set of specified reference strings in the packet starting at an unknown location within a range of the packet.

.11-26. (Cancelled)	
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